



DEQ receives positive feedback on Sanitary Wastewater Compliance Assistance Training classes

As another form of outreach to citizens and business owners across the state, DEQ has conducted a variety of workshops designed to inform the public on the latest regulations while providing permit holders some insight into how those regulations translate into an environmentally sound business model.

The Sanitary Wastewater Compliance Training classes, known as “SWAT,” have been instrumental in helping the smaller businesses and municipalities achieve compliance with DEQ-issued wastewater discharge permits. The targeted audience for the SWAT classes is the class I and II sanitary general and the car wash general permit holders, which constitute discharges generally less than 25,000 gallons per day. These facilities make up the bulk of the discharge permits issued by DEQ and a large fraction of the total enforcement referrals received by DEQ’s Enforcement Division. Since 2007, these classes also provided four hours of continuing education credits for operators certified with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. SWAT classes are conducted using instructors from within DEQ and speakers from the Louisiana Rural Water Association.

DEQ has seen approximately 1,000 people in attendance at SWAT classes since their inception in 2006. More than 40 people attended the most recent class, which was a free four-hour class held at Nicholls State in Thibodaux.

“Attendance has been high and feedback has been outstanding,” said Wayne Slater, DEQ Environmental Scientist. “We normally receive many verbal accolades at the conclusion of the classes, along with inquiries on when our next class will be taking place. All in all, the sessions have been very productive.”

